

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: GOI THREAT TO PAN AM FLIGHTS BEYOND ROME

REF: (A) ROME 6733; (B) ROME 15198

1. EMBOFF WAS CALLED TO MFA BY PIETROSANTO ON AUG. 22 AND
HANDED AIDE MEMOIRE UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF WHICH PROVIDED
PARA 2.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE NUMBER OF SEATS OFFERED BY PAN AM IN THE
CURRENT 1978 SUMMER SEASON ON SERVICES EAST OF ROME MUST NOT
BE GREATER THAN THAT OFFERED IN THE 1971 SUMMER SEASON AND
THAT IS THE 77,040 TOTAL SEATS GIVEN BY THE 428 OUTBOUND
AND INBOUND FLIGHTS OPERATED IN THE SUMMER OF 1977 TO
POINTS EAST OF ROME TIMES THE SELLABLE CAPACITY OF 180 SEATS
OF B707 AIRCRAFT IN THE ALL ECONOMY VERSION USED ON THE SAME
ROUTES.

(PARAGRAPH) IN THE CURRENT SUMMER SEASON PAN AM OPERATED IN
THE PARIL 1 - JULY 2 PERIOD 186 OUTBOUND AND INBOUND FLIGHTS
EAST OF ROME WITH B707 AIRCRAFT IN THE 180. SEAT CONFIGURATION
EQUAL TO AN OFFER OF 33,480 SEATS AND IN THE JULY 3 -
AUGUST 18 PERIOD 94 FLIGHTS EAST OF ROME WITH B747 AIRCRAFT
IN THE 405 SEAT COFIGURATION EAUAL TO AN OFFER OF 38,070

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SEATS FOR A TOTAL OF 71,550 SEATS. THEREFORE, CAPACITY
LEVEL OPERATED IN THE SUMMER OF 1977, THAT IS 77,040 SEATS,
EAST OF ROME WILL BE REACHED AND USED UP ON THE BASIS OF THE
PRESENT PAN AM OFFER (OF CAPACITY) ON AUGUST
25, 1978, END TEXT.

3. EMBOFF REPEATED USG VIEW THAT FREEZE SHOULD APPLY ONLY

TO FIFTH FREEDOM PASSENGER TICKETS SOLD AND USED--NOT TO CAPACITY ON SECTORS BEYOND ROME AND THAT USG ACCEPTED THAT LIMIT ONLY AS COMPROMISE. USG VIEW CONTINUED TO BE THAT CAPACITY FREEZE SHOULD BE BASED ON B747CAPACITY INITIALLY FILED FOR ADD ACCEPTED BY GOI IN 1977. EMBOFF SAID USE OF TERM "VAPACITA UTILIZZABILE" (USABLE CAPACITY) IN MFA NOTE 079/6064 OF PARIL 4, 1978 TRANSMITTED IN REF (A) INDICATED ITALIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES THEMSELVES HAD IN MIND SEATS ACTUALLY USED AND NOT SEATS OFFERED.

4. PIETROSANTO REPLIED THAT USABLE CAPACITY MEANT CAPACITY OFFERED FOR SALE WHETHER USED OR NOT. HE SAID THAT AT EX POST CONSULTATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN JUNE, 1978, GOI DELEGATION HAD REFERRED TO CAPACITY OFFERED IN 1977 WHILE U.S. SIDE DID NOT REFER TO CAPACITY LEVEL FILED. HE ADDED THAT GOI DID NOT REALLY ACCEPT B747 FILING IN 1977. GOI HAD CALLED FOR EX ANTE CONSULTATIONS ON CAPACITY TO EXPRESS ITS OBJECTIONS BUT COULD NOT PREVENT PAN AM FILING FROM GOING INTO EFFECT UNDER TERMS OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT.

5. EMBOFF PROMISED TO CONVEY VIEWS EXPRESSED IN AIDE MEMOIRE AND SEPARATELY. AS EMBOFF TOOK LEAVE, PIETROSANTO SAID HE FEARED THAT CIVILAVIA WILL BLOCK PAN AM FLIGHTS FOLLOWING COMING WEEKEND. HE REMARKED THAT ALITALIA IS PRESSING VERY HARD TO LIMIT PAN AM FLIGHTS AND WAS THREATENING TO BRING DAMAGE SUITS. (HE DID NOT SPECIFY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGAINST WHOM ALITALIA WAS THREATENING TO BRING SUITS). ALITALIA'S SEAT FACTORS EAST OF ROME, HE SAID, WERE IN 50 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT RANGE WHILE PAN AM IS OPERATING AT MUCH HIGHER LEVEL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THIS CONTROVERSY WAS BEING FOLLOWED AT HIGHEST LEVELS IN MFA.

6.COMMENT. AS INDICATED REF (B) GOI APPLYING MAXIMUM PRESSURE TO INDUCE PAN AM TO LIMIT PASSENGER BOOKINGS. CALCULATIONS PRESENTED IN AIDE MEMOIRE FORM BASIS FOR CALLING FOR COMPLETE SHUT-DOWN OF FURTHER PAN AM OPERATIONS EAST OF ROME. GIVEN PIETROSANTO'S ORAL WARNING (PARA 5) BELIEVE WE FACE AT LEAST FURTHER TEMPORARY TAKE-OFF REFUSALS AND PERHAPS COMPLETE CANCELLATION SOME PAN AM FLIGHTS.HOLMES

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